

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (New): A device for treating bladder-emptying dysfunctions of a human, comprising:

a catheter that can be introduced into the urethra, said catheter having a urine-emptying channel and a balloon arrangement that can be filled with a fluid, to seal the bladder and to hold the catheter in a bladder lumen, said arrangement adapted to be filled with or emptied of said fluid by at least one channel that runs along a catheter wall and is sealed off at a distal end segment of the catheter;

an automatically closing valve accommodated in a proximal end segment of the catheter, wherein a length of the catheter is dimensioned so that its distal end lies within the urethra in the inserted state;

a hydraulic activation mechanism for opening the valve, said hydraulic activation mechanism being disposed in said proximal end segment;

an activation balloon disposed on the distal end segment of the catheter, said balloon being filled with activation fluid and connected with the activation mechanism by way of a connection channel, said activation balloon hydraulically impacting said activation mechanism by mechanical pressure on the activation balloon;

wherein the activation mechanism is formed by a closure part of the valve that is elastically connected with the proximal end segment of the catheter, so that the closure part seals off the catheter at the proximal end segment in a non-activated state of the activation balloon,

wherein the closure part can be moved out from sealing contact solely in response to a hydraulic impact from actuating the activation balloon by means of the effective hydraulic pressure built up at a closure wall of the connection channel at the proximal end segment; and

wherein the closure wall of the connection channel is opposite to an activation surface of the closure part and is pressed out of the connection channel in an axial direction by the hydraulic pressure so that the urine-emptying channel of the catheter is opened by the closure part for unhindered passage of urine.

Claim 15 (New) : The device according to claim 14, wherein the valve closure part has a conically shaped contact surface that makes it possible to seal off the urine-emptying channel of the catheter at an end edge at the proximal catheter end.

Claim 16 (New) : The device according to claim 14, wherein the closure part and the proximal end segment of the catheter are elastically connected with one another by holder elements.

Claim 17 (New) : The device according to claim 14, wherein the closure part is connected with the proximal end segment of the catheter by means of a joint element and at least one elastic holder element.

Claim 18 (New) : The device according to claim 17, wherein one end of each holder element is formed on the closure part or on the proximal end segment of the catheter, and is separately attached to the proximal end of the catheter or to the closure part, respectively, with its other end.

Claim 19 (New) : The device according to claim 18, wherein the other end of each holder element is separately attached to the proximal end segment of the catheter or to the closure part, respectively, by means of a glued connection.

Claim 20 (New): The device according to claim 14, wherein the connection channel connected with the activation balloon contains a pressure lumen separated by a separate valve in a region of the proximal end segment of the catheter, and when said lumen is filled with the activation fluid by activation of the activation balloon, the closure part can be lifted up from its sealing contact on the urine-emptying channel of the catheter.

Claim 21 (New): The device according to claim 20, wherein said separate valve allows in-flow of the activation fluid into the pressure lumen at a first, relatively high velocity, and permits back-flow of the activation fluid from the pressure lumen at a significantly lower second velocity.

Claim 22 (New): The device according to claim 21, wherein the separate valve, which separates the pressure lumen from the activation balloon, has a valve shaft that has a passage opening in the pressure lumen that is accessible from the activation balloon, which opening is surrounded by a valve tube.

Claim 23 (New): The device according to claim 14, wherein the catheter and the closure part consist of silicone.

Claim 24 (New): The device according to claim 14, wherein the balloon arrangement and the activation balloon consist of silicone.

Claim 25 (New): The device according to claim 14, wherein the activation fluid is oil.

Claim 26 (New): The device according to claim 25, wherein the oil is olive oil.

Claim 27 (New): The device according to claim 16, wherein one end of each elastic holder element is formed on the closure part or on the proximal end segment of the catheter, and is separately attached to the proximal end of the catheter or to the closure part, respectively, with its other end.